(3) Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements,

(4) Creation of world class infrastructure,

(5) Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes,

(6) Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism; and

(7) Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values.

(b) A series of measures have already been taken. Initiating measures for making tourism attractive is a continuous process.

(c) The new schemes which have *inter-alia* been included in the Annual Plan 2002-2003 for development of infrastructure and promotion of Tourism in the country are:—

(1) Integrated development of tourist circuits,
(2) Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development,
(3) Assistance for large Revenue generating projects and
(4) Capacity Building for Service providers.

Additional hotel loans

3220. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the interest subsidy on additional hotel loan which was given to the hotels, etc. by the Department of Tourism since the interest subsidy scheme was introduced;

(b) whether the same is being done without issuing the Gazette of India notification;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of claims of interest subsidy on additional loan are

pending in the Department of Tourism for a long time since 31st December, 2001; and

(e) the date by when these pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Interest subsidy of 3% is available on entire loan amount taken from designated financial institutions by 1—3 star approved hotel projects located outside the four metropolitan cities. Interest subsidy enhanced rate of 5% of admissible for such hotels if they are located in the identified travel circuit/destinations as well as Heritage hotels.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Forty two interest subsidy claims are pending.

(e) These pending cases are being examined expeditiously for appropriate decision.

Rules for trade agents, tour operators and guides

3221. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any rules for travel agents, tour operators and guides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has formulated guidelines for granting recognition as approved Tour Operators, Travel Agents and for training of Guides.

(b) The Rules for recognition of Tour Operators, Travel Agents and Guidelines for training of Guides are placed at statement-I, II and III. (*See* below)

(c) Question does not arise.